

# OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 32 *Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners* April 1996

## GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS FOR SILVIA BARALDINI

For more than five years many of us have been involved in the national/international campaign to return political prisoner, Silvia Baraldini, to Italy. Silvia is an Italian national serving a 43 year sentence in the United States. Her sentence is excessive and reflects the US government's attempt to punish her for her support of the Black and Puerto Rican liberation movements and for her refusal, since her arrest, to recant her political beliefs.

In 1989, 1991, 1994 and 1995 the Italian Government and Silvia petitioned the US Justice Department, pursuant to the Strasbourg Convention, for Silvia to complete her sentence in an Italian prison, close to her family and the community where she will live upon her release. Despite significant public pressure from supporters in Italy and the United States, all four petitions have been denied. In March, we learned of the last refusal.

That's the bad news. The good news is that the campaign in the US for Silvia's transfer is growing and expanding. There are two new committees in Eugene, Oregon and Amherst, Massachusetts. Last fall the Eugene Committee



initiated a postcard campaign to their Governor urging him to pressure President Clinton to act favorably on Silvia's transfer request. Gerald Ross of the Eugene committee has created a national/international web site about Silvia's campaign. The web site is linked to a web in Rome, Italy.

In Amherst the Western Massachusetts committee held a successful event about Silvia for International Women's Day at Smith College. Over 70 people came out to hear Elizabeth Fink, Silvia's attorney, Toby Emmer, a member of the NY committee and Nina Rosenblum, film maker of Through the Wire, tell of Silvia's case and the campaign to win her transfer to Italy.

As Silvia enters her 14th year of incarceration, we continue to educate and agitate for Silvia's transfer. We call on everyone concerned with human rights to join the Release Silvia! International Campaign. We need your support. For more information

contact: Committee to Return Silvia Baraldini to Italy (CRSB)

3543 18th St., Box 30, San Francisco, CA 94110

e-mail: CRSBI@igc.apc.org Web: <http://www.rio.com/~ross>

## LORI BERENSON / PERU

On March 15, the Peruvian supreme military council upheld Lori Berenson's sentence of life in prison without parole. This was the final appeal in the secret military court system where there is no due process and a 97 % conviction rate. Lori's lawyers plan to file a petition with the supreme court of Peru to nullify the decision and to move the case to a civil court. Without pressure this petition may be completely ignored. People are urged to write the ambassador. Feel free to sound angry and to threaten further political, social and economic action. After all, if Peru is truly the democracy it claims, then Lori should get a trial with jury of her peers.

ADDRESS IS: His Excellency Ricardo Luna, Ambassador, Republic of Peru, Embassy of Peru, Wash d.c. 20036

## Fight AIDS Walkathon

On May 24-27, 1996, PLACE (Pleasanton AIDS Counseling Education) will sponsor the second Fight AIDS Walkathon at FCI Dublin, a federal women's prison in California.

The Walkathon will raise AIDS awareness at the prison and allow women prisoners to make an active contribution to the fight against AIDS. Last years Walkathon was an overwhelming success. More than half the women on the compound participated in the 9 day long event, walking over 5,000 miles, often in the pouring rain. Almost \$4,000. was raised from contributions by families and friends; \$1,300. from women inside.

PLACE is a prisoner's organization at FCI Dublin. PLACE has been doing peer education and counseling about AIDS, hepatitis and other health issues since 1991. Every year PLACE makes holiday cards and toys for HIV+ positive children and children with AIDS at the Oakland Children's Hospital. Inside the prison, the women in PLACE sponsor many video showings, outside speakers and classes.

Money raised from the Walkathon will be donated to two groups: the Ambassa-

dor Hotel in San Francisco and Sunburst Projects. The Ambassador is a residence hotel providing care and services for HIV+ people and people with AIDS, many of whom have been rejected by their families because they have AIDS. Money raised will provide survival services (transportation, food, medicine) not funded by social service agencies.

Since 1988, Sunburst Projects has provided support for HIV+ children and their families, including Camp Sunburst, a week long summer camp. Money raised by the Walkathon will allow more kids to attend this camp.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**PRISONERS  
FIGHT  
AIDS  
WALKATHON**

You can make a lump sum contribution or sponsor a specific walker for a specific number of miles. Send pertinent information and a check or money order for the amount of your pledge to Carol Ghilardi, St. Augustine's AIDS Ministry, St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 3999 Bernal Ave. Pleasanton CA 94566. Make checks payable to St. Augustine's Church, designated PLACE AIDS Walkathon.

Welcome back Aida Robinson from Dublin FCI. She's living in Berkeley with her three youngest children.

## LOSS OF TWO GOOD ATTORNEY / FRIENDS

While recently attending a Int Association of Democratic Lawyers in Capetown, South Africa, Haywood Burns, Professor of Law at New York City College; and Margaret Shanara Gilbert, former Dean of CUNY Law School were fatally injured in a traffic accident in the streets of Capetown. Both were African Americans, community activists, and will be missed. We offer our condolences to their families and communities. Good lawyers are hard to find and those that we can call friends are even more rare. PEACE

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM SUPPORTS WOMEN IN PRISON

by Judy Greenspan

This year, in honor of International Women's Day, there was a benefit for the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) which recently celebrated their one year anniversary. Nearly 400 people crowded into the women's building to celebrate the struggles and protest the abuse of women prisoners. The program featured Angela Davis, a speakout by formerly incarcerated women, Chrystos, Melanie DeMore, the Gospel Accordion to Women and an art show by Daphne Scholinski. The evening netted nearly \$6,000 to help support CCWP's organizing on behalf of women prisoners.

The most moving portion of the program was the speakout by formerly incarcerated women. Five women eloquently told their stories and urged people in the audience to support women in prison. Statements by women inside were also read documenting the continuing struggle to obtain adequate medical care. Ellen Barry, Director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, the office spearheading the local coordination of the legal effort, spoke about the lawsuit and the individual stories of the women involved — women with sickle cell anemia, diabetes, physical disabilities, HIV/AIDS and other serious medical conditions.

Angela Davis gave a strong and powerful message warning everyone about the new enemy we face — the prison industrial complex. She urged everyone to join the new movement for women prisoners' rights.

The CCWP was organized last March to support the demands of women prisoners at two state prisons (Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla (CCWF) and the California Institution for Women in Frontera) for better medical care. HIV+ women at CCWF first alerted the outside women's communities to the medical neglect and abuse faced by women prisoners. Their organizing and activism spearheaded by Joann Walker, a woman prisoner living with AIDS, laid the basis and gave an urgency to the lawsuit that was filed on April 4, 1995.

Since the lawsuit was filed, a new prison has opened across the street from CCWF called Valley State Prison for Women. This prison houses the punitive high security housing unit (SHU). Already the Coalition and sister groups like the Pelican Bay Information Project have heard about the humiliation and psychological abuse of the SHU at Valley State.

The California Coalition is developing a newsletter to help maintain communication on both sides of the walls and is organizing a special event to honor formerly incarcerated women. Your help and energy are needed to make all of these events (and more) a success. CCWP meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 7 p.m. at the Women's Building.

*For more information contact the California Coalition for Women Prisoners at (415) 255-7036, ext. 313 or (510) 834-5657, ext. 3150.*

**Demonstrate Saturday, June 8, 12 noon  
Valley State Prison for Women, Chowchilla**

**Demand better medical care and an end to  
SHU torture of women prisoners**

**For carpool and other information call:  
the California Coalition for Women Prisoners,  
(510) 834-5657, ext. 3150.**

## Prison is No Place to Die

Dorothy Ware, a young African American prisoner with full blown AIDS, is suffering from medical neglect and AIDS related complications at the Central California Women's Prison at Chowchilla (CCWF). Her original 7 year term for burglary should not turn into a death sentence.

Because of her deteriorating medical condition, the chief medical doctor at Chowchilla recommended compassionate release. Warden Teena Farmon turned down the request. The director of California Department of Corrections (CDoC) James Gomez turned down Dorothy's request for reconsideration.

In past campaigns for compassionate release, public pressure has made all the difference. Dorothy Ware has family in California anxiously hoping to care for her during the last period of her life. She needs treatment, not more punishment.

FAX, CALL or WRITE: James Gomez, director CDoC, 1515 S St. Sacramento, CA 94283; 916-445-7688, FAX 916-327-1988 and Warden Teena Farmon CCWF, PO Box 1501, Chowchilla, CA 93610; 209-665-5531, FAX 209-665-7158.

Compassionate release and mandatory testing legislation are both being discussed in the California state assembly: AB 3093 - Compassionate release is humane and fiscally smart but AB 3288-forced HIV testing and segregation do not lead to better care or treatment. Please write your assembly person and ask them to forward your opinion to the public safety committee.

For more information about Dorothy Ware or the assembly bills, contact the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project of Catholic Charities, 433 Jefferson St. Oakland, CA 94607

## International Women's Day March '96

To commemorate International Women's Day, March 8th, Women Against Imperialism sponsored the annual rally and march. Over 300 women gathered at Dolores Park and participated in a lively, spirited torch lit event. "Turning up the heat" about abortion rights, immigration rights, welfare rights, gay and lesbian liberation, women in prison and women political prisoners was the theme.

Out of Control Lesbian Committee and other prison activists organized a contingent to spread the word about women political prisoners and Prisoners of War. Women Walking Tall (women stilt walkers) joined our colorful, dynamic group.

## NORM CROY DENIED PAROLE 7Xs

Norma Jean (Norm) Croy went to the parole board for the seventh time in March 96. The denial and set off for another year should come as no surprise to anyone who has kept up with this case. The ridiculousness and total absurdity of the California judicial system in this case are beyond description. Suffice it to say that clearly they are the masters of unreason. Although some may find it interesting that the attorneys were asked to stay for a moment where the board suggested to them that AA attendance might look good to the governor when the petition crossed his desk, I think it's basically the same bullshit as last year. Last year the bored people were insistent on remorse as well. So, who knows maybe it is a tiny bit of progress, but the fact remains that NORM is still in prison for a crime that was never committed as admitted by the state's release of her brother Hooty six long years ago.

There is some good news, however, in the federal suit in Sacramento. Over a year ago a writ was filed and finally, after several false starts, we see some movement. A status hearing is scheduled for the first week in May. And, a bail hearing for Norma will also be a question raised (don't hold yr breath on that). That means that there should be a trial during the summer in Sacramento. People will be needed to attend those proceedings. We must show that we want NORM to come home.

For more info contact: **NORMA JEAN CROY DEFENSE COMMITTEE, pier 5, s.f. 94111**

## THE TOP TEN

The mainstream media, as mouth pieces for the conservative politicians continually creeping into our lives, would have you believe that people are mostly being sent to prison because of violent crimes; and that we need to lock more people (of color) away to make our streets safer. It's simply not true; it's just another lie brought to you by big brother, et al. Here are the TOP TEN CHARGES for which Californians are doing time:

1. possession of controlled substance
2. possession drugs for sale
3. robbery
4. sale of controlled substance
5. second degree burglary
6. assault with a deadly weapon
7. driving under the influence
8. first degree burglary
9. petty theft with a prior
10. vehicle theft

All but two of these are non-violent offenses. The big violent crimes; murder (1st and 2nd degree), rape (and all other sex crimes), manslaughter, and kidnapping are not even in the top ten. In fact first degree murderers make up about 4% of California prisoners. The pathetic truth is that more people are being sent to prison now for charges such as drugs, forgery, fraud and theft than for rape and murder. The prisons are not being used to corral the dangerous, but to grab the easy victims out of people of color and poor communities. The criminalization of poverty grinds on/petty's get-tuff-on-everybody-who-ain't-rich trickery.



# OUT OF TIME

## WOMEN PRISONERS STATS TO BOGGLE THE MIND

From 1981-1990, the number of women in u.s. prisons increased by 256%; the total arrests of women increased by 60%.

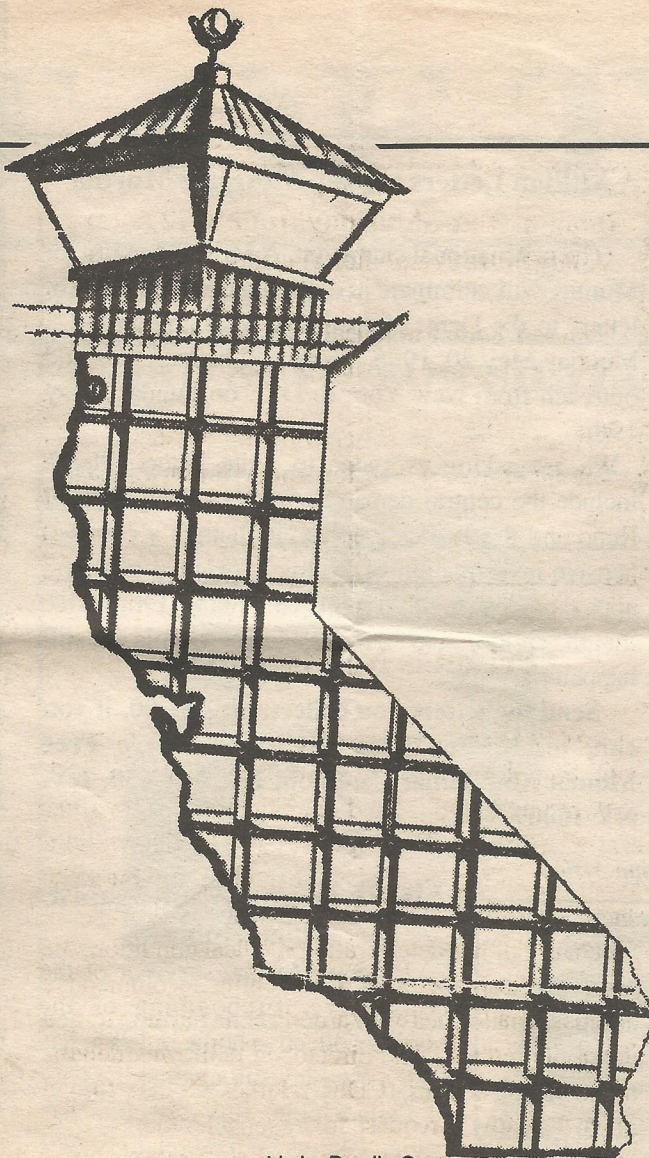
In Illinois, the number of women in prisons increased by 276%.

There are almost 95,000 women incarcerated; 48,474 in state prisons and 6,981 in federal prisons; and over 38,818 in pretrial detention.

Conservative estimates report that over half of all adult female offenders were victims of physical abuse and 36% had been sexually abused; some studies report 88% had experienced at least one major form of violent victimization.

Two-thirds of imprisoned women in the u.s. have children under the age of 18 yrs. Eight to ten percent of women are pregnant when they enter prison, while another 15% have babies less than six weeks old.

Approximately 70% of women in prison are non-violent first offenders. (CROSSROADS vol. 6, #2, Sept/ Oct 1995)



## GERONIMO PRATT

On March 28, superior court judge Michael Cowell rejected defense lawyers Kathleen Cleaver, Stuart Hanlon, and Johnnie Cochran's (yes the one you saw on tv with OJ) March 26th request to release Geronimo Pratt on bail while he awaits a hearing on his motion for a new trial.

Over 400 people were outside the court. There were events in support of Geronimo for 5 days prior to March 26th, all over Los Angeles.

DA Gil Garcetti had filed an answer to the habeas, claiming his office was overworked in 1995; that he had not had time to consider Geronimo's appeal for a new trial based on 500 pages of new evidence. Judge Cowell called that evidence "substantive."

Garcetti asked for 90 more days to consider, in his formal answer, then, in court, he changed his answer and asked that the case be referred to the CA supreme court, where it stands a chance of being dismissed. Hanlon called the move outrageous.

On April 17th Geronimo's attorneys submitted further arguments for Geronimo to get a new trial, or immediate reversal of conviction. Judge Cowell decided he could not hear the case. It will be referred to the CA supreme court. No time line was set for the case to be heard despite insistence by Geronimo's attorneys. Geronimo was ordered back to Mule Creek State Prison immediately.

Pratt, now 48 yrs old, and in prison for more than 25 years, claims new evidence reportedly obtained from FBI files and witnesses who previously remained silent about his being in S.F. when the murders occurred on a Santa Monica tennis court will prove his innocence. Pratt, a political prisoner, was a very strong Black Panther in southern Calif. at the time of his arrest and all evidence points to a Cointelpro conspiracy between the FBI and the L.A. police

## FREE SPEECH OUTLAWED in CA

California's department of corrections (CDoC) has issued emergency regulations that further erode the media's ability to report on, and the public's right to know about conditions in the state's rapidly expanding \$3.7 billion prison system. The new regulations eliminate prisoners' right to send confidential correspondence to the news media and makes permanent a 5-month-old temporary ban on media interviews with individual prisoners.

Meanwhile, a state inmate was recently punished for attempting to circumvent the media interview policy. So, Free speech has been outlawed in the prisons. *Where do you think they will try it next time?* The new regulation was made official on Fri. March 29, late in the afternoon, a time often chosen to help minimize news coverage. The timing of the filing with the office of administrative law, the agency that approves all new regulations, also effectively cut in half the amount of time available for public comment on the policy. Under state law, critics have only 5 days to respond, and weekends count. Specifically, interviews with individual prisoners were cited as offending victims and contributing to the glamorization of crime. Confidential letters to reporters, the CDoC says, could be used to help plan an escape. (you know those reporters are just always helping folks escape.) Under the new rules, the media can record only random interviews with prisoners during guided tours. While individual prisoners can still be visited by reporters through regular channels, reporters will not be allowed to bring paper, pencil or recording devices.

"I'm horrified," said Tom Newton, general counsel and legislative advocate for the Sacramento based CNPA. "Without any specific showing of a need, they are creating a rule that says there is never a situation where the media should interview an individual inmate..." This has nothing to do with prisoners. This is aimed at true media and at keeping the public in the dark. (if you don't know what that can lead to, please watch the film *Murder in the First*) Media organizations and prisoner advocates will continue to protest this attempt to shut down reporting on conditions and possible human rights violations in jails and prisons.

## CALL THIS NUMBER

The Ca. Department of Corrections, (CDoC), is accepting written public comment on its new prisoner/media ban policy until June 13th. Call (916) 358-2456, Donna McKinney. She will take your name and address and send you the necessary forms to be sent before the hearing.

In an article from the S.F. Bay Guardian, April 17, 1996, the head of California's prison system, James Gomez, told a state senate subcommittee last week that there has been no incident concerning inmates and the media in more than two decades to warrant "emergency" status of the department's restrictive new media policy. Senator Kopp concluded the April 11 hearing by reiterating that S.B. 1260 (CA's so-called Inmate Bill of Rights) was never intended to be used to alter media access to inmates.

## CA BILLS TARGET JUVENILES

**AB 2527** (Miller, R-w.covina): anyone 14 or over charged with any felony is presumed unfit for juvenile court.

**AB 2762** (Boland, R-granada hills): expands the list of offenses (burglary included) raising a presumption that a juvenile 16 or over is not fit for juvenile court.

**SB 1377** (Peace, D-san diego): anyone over 14 with a weapon is unfit for juvenile court

**SB 2126** (Marks, D-san francisco): purposes a new scheme allowing the possibility of jury trials in juvenile court, with a juvenile law sentence and stayed entry of an adult criminal conviction.

**AB 267** (House, R-modesto): requires the release of names of juveniles found guilty

**SB 2065** (Russell, R-glendale): requires the release of juvenile names for graffiti or vandalism as well as specific serious felonies

**AB 1678** (Granlund, R-yucaipa): allows criminal courts to have access to juvenile records even where those records have been sealed

**AB 3224** (Poochigian, R-fresno): prohibits the sealing of juvenile records in cases of specific serious offenses.



## INAUGURAL DEATH MARCH

Today a new governor was inaugurated  
in Pennsylvania  
Aiming to please  
he has promised  
to expeditiously consign  
the condemned to death.

A morbid chill  
keens within my bones  
Cold  
cold  
ice constricts my chest  
I scream  
Mumia must not die!

(I did not know  
brother Ajamu Nassor  
had already been executed  
in Indiana  
in December  
News arrives late here.  
His brother in struggle  
Ziyon Yisrayah  
awaits the gas chamber still.)

To speak out stand up  
can be deadly.

I have seen many die  
who dared to speak  
to stand up  
Malcolm Martin Fred Hampton  
assassinated by agents and pawns  
Many others also  
who did not speak  
except through their existence  
colonized men, women, children  
lynched, gassed, murdered  
choked to death by police clubs  
They will not be found in u.s. history books  
yet their spirits live  
in furious condemnation.

After nearly 50 years  
I still can not accept murder  
so constitutionally contrived  
Dispensed by government gas chambers  
police artillery  
and u.s. bombers.

I have fantasies  
Ripping out electrical wires  
Burying cyanide capsules  
Denaturing designer drugs of lethal injection

And I am here in prison  
feeling the death tremors  
running through concrete and steel  
from the East coast to the West.

Don't you feel offended  
angry  
indignant  
that a woman or man should be  
gleefully  
garishly  
Murdered  
by State decree?  
Legally  
not by accident  
not in an "incident"  
not in a war  
but deliberately  
calendarically calculated  
in cold blood?

If not, why not?  
If so, what will you do?

Marilyn Buck

January 1995

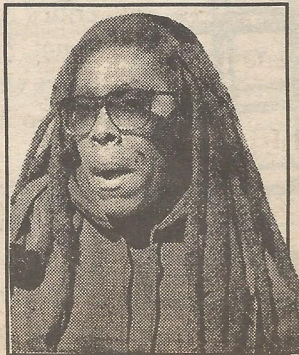
## A Million Letters to Stop Mumia's Murder

The new national campaign, A Million Letters for Mumia, will culminate in a dramatic presentation of letters to the Dept. of Justice in Washington D.C., Monday May 20, 1996. There will be leafleting and outreach from New York to D.C. on Sunday, May 19th.

We are asking everyone to write letters. Please include the central demand of this campaign: Janet Reno and the Justice Dept. must launch a comprehensive investigation of Mumia's original trial and appeal process for civil rights violations. Emphasize that the civil rights violations against Mumia are still happening today.

Send the letters you collect, plus \$1.00, if you can, to: **Million Letters Campaign, c/o Free Mumia Abu Jamal Coalition, PO Box 650, NY, NY 10009.**

Ramona Africa



## MOVE brings lawsuit against Philadelphia

Ramona Africa, survivor of the Osage Ave. firebombing of the MOVE collective home in 1985, has filed a civil lawsuit against the City of Philadelphia. Jury selection has begun. Claims filed by relatives of 2 of the 11 MOVE members killed in the firebombing that destroyed 60 homes, will also be tried at the same

time.

The City of Brotherly Love is complaining that the trial will bring up all the pain and bitterness all over again. Hmm. Will Ramona Africa and the relatives of two of the victims finally see a late compensation for the loss of life in their families? And how long have they suffered, and are still suffering?

## FEDERAL PRISONERS LOSE CLOTHES

Federal prisoners have lost the right to wear their own clothing. Using gang colors as a reason, the bureau of prisons has forced prisoners to ship out personal clothing items. Even prisoners in camps who were previously allowed two clothing packages a year will no longer be allowed ANY clothing. The reasons given for this change was that it has become increasingly difficult for the guards to monitor the parcels, as well as gang activity. The poor little prison guards are so over worked because of over crowding, not because of a few clothing packages. This always happens when space becomes scarce: more bodies per square foot and less personal property; books are often limited as well. The women at dublin f.c.i. have also been forced to send out all personal items except for some personal things, such as sox, one robe, and some under garments. They are now living in khaki pants and shirts. It is interesting to note that the commissary has carried shoes for some time now and these are the only shoes that prisoners can buy. It will only be a matter of time before the company store begins to sell panties, too. The prices will be inflated as they always are when the capitalists have a captive consumer group to exploit.

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## LEONARD PELTIER

Leonard Peltier was again denied parole despite that the parole officer who conducted the hearing last December made a positive recommendation to the national parole commission for release. This means continuation without reconsideration until Dec. 2008. This decision is not appealable. It makes no difference to these particular masters of unreason that there is no direct evidence to link Leonard to the elimination of two of its fbi agents at Pine Ridge, June '75 during an armed attack by those same two agents. They even go as far as stating that Leonard has never given a factual account consistent with the jury's verdict of guilt. How the hell can an innocent man give a factual account of guilt when he is not guilty?! *Note: The parole officer who made the favorable recommendation has lost his job.*

VOICE YOUR OUTRAGE: Janet Reno (202) 514-4371 Fax (202) 514-0467

white House chief of staff Fax (202) 456-2883

white house comment line (202) 456-1111

## PUERTO RICAN D.C. DEMO

On Friday, March 29, over 7000 people marched in sleet & rain in washington d.c. to support Puerto Rican POWs and Political Prisoners. The march, organized by a coalition of mainstream Puerto Rican organizations called BORICUA FIRST, began at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to recognize Puerto Rican Vietnam vets. The March continued to the capitol building where the crowd chanted !Que Salgan ya! (that they get out now). u.s. representative Luir Gutierrez said, "There can be no reconciliation with the Puerto Rican nation without the freedom of the Puerto Rican POWs."

A contingent of 240 Independistas from Chicago carried 5 ft. high color portraits of the POWs and 4 ft. placards with torches and barbed wire that said 16 years is long enough / Freedom for Puerto Rican POWs & Political Prisoners. For more info contact National Committee to free Puerto Rican POWs & Political Prisoners, 2048 W. Division, Chicago 60622 / E-Mail NCPR

POW PP @ AOL. COM